

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

SCCT-01 IO-10 OMB-01 /070 W

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R 181213Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 416

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 2206

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET, SU

SUBJECT: SUDAN/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS - ERITREA

REF: KHARTOUM 2069

1. NEW ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR YILMA TADESSE TOLD AMBASSADOR SAPTEMBER 18 THAT GOS HAD UNEXPECTEDLY KEPT HIM BRIEFED RE PROGRESS AND RESULTS OF RECENTLY CONCLUDED ELF/PLF CONFERENCE HERE EARLY SEPTEMBER. SUDANESE HAVE TOLD HIM THAT CONFEREES AGREED THAT ERITREAN LIBERATION GROUPS SHOULD BE UNIFIED AND THAT NIMEIRI'S MEDIATION INITIATIVE WAS ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. TADESSE SAID THAT BALL NOW IN ETHIOPIAN COURT, ALTHOUGH HE LATER INDICATED THAT NIMEIRI OR OTHER SENIOR GOS OFFICIAL MAY SHORTLY BE IN MORE FORMAL COMMUNICATION WITH ETHIOPIAN LEADERSHIP. THIS CONNECTION, TADESSE COMMENTED THAT OFT-POSTPONED JOINT MINISTERIAL MEETING BETWEEN TWO SIDES WAS STILL PENDING AND EFFORTS FIX MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE MIGHT SOON RE-COMMENCE.

2. TADESSE SAID HE FELT EPMG NOW MORE UNDERSTANDING THAN FORMERLY RE DIFFICULT POSITION IN WHICH SUDAN PLACED VIS-A-VIS OTHER ARABS BY ERITREAN INSURGENCY AND THAT EPMG ACCEPTS THAT NIMEIRI DOES GENUINELY DESIRE SOLUTION WITHIN FRAMEWORK ETHIOPIAN INTEGRITY. ALGERIAN AND

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PDRY ATTITUDES ON ISSUES HAD MEANWHILE EVOLVED FAVORABLY

FROM STANDPOINT ADDIS ABABA. AS RESULT ALL THESE FACTORS, TADESSE INDICATED OUTLOOK FOR SOME MOVEMENT ON LONG-STANDING ERITREAN PROBLEM NOW SOMEWHAT IMPROVED.

3. COMMENT: IN INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH ACTING HEAD FONOFF SEPTEMBER 15, LATTER ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR HE FELT GOS/EPMG RELATIONS NOW BACK ON RAILS.
BREWER

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